

**Schaumburg, IL** – Today Congresswoman Melissa Bean joined local business leaders at the *E*  
*mployers' Forum to Build a Skilled Workforce*

. The forum was designed to examine the growing need of manufacturers for skilled workers and investigate ways to develop local solutions. Across the country, manufacturers are struggling to fill positions for skilled workers, a trend that could have a serious detrimental impact on the local and national economy.

The forum in which Bean participated represents an effort to address this challenge by developing ways to inform potential workers of the opportunities available for steady, well-paid manufacturing jobs and improving systems of education, compensation and economic stimulation that will help expand the pool of skilled manufacturing employees.

As a member of the House Small Business Committee and as a former business-owner, Congresswoman Melissa Bean recognizes both the challenge and the importance of a well-educated American workforce. She regularly meets with local employers, colleges and organizations that are working to enhance educational and job opportunities for current and future employees while ensuring companies can find the skilled workers they need to compete and grow their businesses

In addition to Bean, other participants included: event host Sandra Westlund-Deenihan, President of Quality Float Works in Schaumburg; Erick Ajax, Vice President of Ajax and Sons; Joe Fredkove, Hennipin Technical College; Phyllis Eisen, Executive Director of the Center for Workforce Success of the National Association of Manufacturers; Mary Gershwin, Ph.D Sr. Fellow Center for Workforce Success; John Battista, Prosser Academy High School; and local manufacturers.

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